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PHORE

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JULY 28 1980

NUR: ROBERT
H: Weston
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S: R/Kennedy

Dear Mr. Burton:

I have been asked to reply to your letter to Secretary
Muskie of July 11 concerning your interest in the Raoul
Wallenberg case.

Following discussions on this subject in France in March
1979, the Department raised this matter with the Soviet Embassy
twice more -- in July and in October, 1979 -- seeking further
clarification of Wallenberg's fate. We pressed the Soviets
again in December for a full and adequate response.
Regrettably, the Soviets failed to respond to our requests
until February 29 when they formally and in writing reaffirmed
their claim that Wallenberg had died in the USSR during July,
1947. The Soviets also stated that they had informed the
Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and
suggested that they would have no further information on this
matter in the future.

Given the current depressed state of our relations with
the Soviet Union and the tone of the February 29 reply, we do
not believe that the Soviets would be responsive now to further
inquiries now about Raoul Wallenberg.

Unfortunately, the Secretary's very busy schedule
precludes his meeting with the Wallenberg family during the
period you suggested. I assure you that the Department
continues to monitor all significant developments in this
tragic case and will inform you should any new information
develop.

Incidentally, you will be interested to know that
extensive interviews were conducted with each of five prominent
Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in New York
City on April 27, 1979, on the possibility that Wallenberg was
still alive in Soviet prison camps. None of the five
ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to such rumors.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

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The Honorable
Phillip Furton,
House of Representatives.

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